WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for reserving a network resource for a multipoint conference, comprising:

receiving a list of participants scheduled to participate in a conference;

receiving a scheduled start time and estimated duration for the conference;

predicting a plurality of communication paths, each communication path corresponding to at least one of the participants; and

reserving the network resource along the communication paths for a predetermined period of time beginning at approximately the scheduled start time.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the network resource comprises bandwidth.

3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the network resource comprises digital signal processor resources of a digital signal processor farm.

4.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the network resource comprises ports of a gateway.

5.   The method of Claim 2, further comprising receiving an address of a host multipoint control unit and wherein the plurality of communication paths include the address.

6.   The method of Claim 5, wherein the multipoint control unit includes digital signal processor resources and further comprising reserving at least a portion of the digital signal processor resources for a predetermined period of time beginning at approximately the scheduled start time.

7.   The method of Claim 5, wherein the multipoint control unit includes a plurality of communication ports and further comprising reserving a number of the plurality of communication ports for a predetermined period of time beginning at approximately the scheduled start time.

8.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving a plurality of participant addresses, each participant address corresponding to at least one of the participants and wherein each participant address comprises an endpoint of at least one communication path.

9.   The method of Claim 8, wherein the participant address comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

10.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising predicting at least one of the plurality of communication paths using a default address associated with at least one of the participants.

11.   The method of Claim 10, wherein the default address is dependent, at least in part, upon the scheduled start time of the conference.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the multipoint conference comprises a Meet Me Conference call.

13. The method of Claim 1, further comprising communicating information regarding reserved network resources to a plurality of network nodes using the resource reservation protocol (RSVP).

14. The method of Claim 1, further comprising transmitting a message to at least one of the plurality of participants, the message including a request to the participant to provide an address from which the participant intends to participate in the multipoint conference.

15. The method of Claim 14, further comprising transmitting the message to the participant via electronic mail.

16. The method of Claim 14, further comprising transmitting the message to the participant via a web form.

17. An apparatus for reserving a network resource for a multipoint conference, comprising:

a processor operable to receive a scheduled start time and estimated duration for the conference and a list
5   of participants; and

the processor being further operable to predict a plurality of communication paths associated with the plurality of participants, and reserve the network resource along at least one of the communication paths.
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18. The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising digital signal processor resources, and wherein the processor is operable to reserve at least a portion of the digital signal processor resources for a
15   predetermined period of time, beginning at approximately the scheduled start time.

19. The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising a plurality of communication ports, and wherein the
20   processor is operable to reserve at least one of the plurality of communication ports for a predetermined period of time beginning at approximately the scheduled start time.

25   20. The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising memory operable to store a default address for at least one of the plurality of participants, and wherein the processor is operable to access the memory to obtain the default address.
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21. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the processor is further operable to reserve a plurality of ports of a gateway for a predetermined period of time, beginning at approximately the scheduled start time.

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22. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the processor is further operable to reserve digital signal processor resources of a digital signal processor farm.

23. Logic encoded in media for reserving a network resource for a multipoint conference, the logic operable to perform the following steps:

receiving a list of participants scheduled to
5   participate in the conference;

receiving a scheduled start time and estimated duration for the conference;

predicting a plurality of communication paths, each communication path corresponding to at least one of the
10   participants; and

reserving the network resource along the communication paths for a predetermined period of time beginning at approximately the scheduled start time.

15   24.   The logic encoded in media of claim 23, wherein the network resource comprises bandwidth.

25.   The logic encoded in media of Claim 24, wherein the multipoint control unit includes digital signal
20   processor resources, and further comprising reserving at least a portion of the digital signal processor resources for a predetermined period of time beginning approximately the scheduled start time.

25   26.   The logic encoded in media of Claim 24, wherein the multipoint control unit includes a plurality of communication ports, and further comprising reserving a number of the plurality of communication ports for a predetermined period of time, beginning at approximately
30   the scheduled start time.

27. The logic encoded in media of Claim 23, wherein the network resource comprises ports of a gateway.

28. The logic encoded in media of Claim 23, wherein the network resource comprises digital signal processor resources of a digital signal processor farm.

29. The logic encoded in media of Claim 24, further comprising receiving a plurality of participant addresses, each participant address corresponding to at least one of the participants, and wherein each participant address comprises and end point of at least one communication path.

30. The logic encoded in media of Claim 24, further comprising predicting at least one of the plurality of communication paths using a default address associated with at least one of the participants.

31. The logic encoded in media of Claim 24, further comprising transmitting a message to at least one of the plurality of participants, the message including a request to provide an address from which the participant intends to participate in the multipoint conference.

32. An apparatus for reserving a network resource for a multipoint conference, comprising:

means for receiving a list of participants scheduled to participate in the conference;

5   means for receiving a scheduled start time and estimated duration for the conference;

means for predicting a plurality of communication paths, each communication path corresponding to at least one of the participants; and

10   means for reserving the network resource along the communication paths for a predetermined period of time beginning at approximately the scheduled start time.

33. The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the network
15   resource comprises bandwidth.

34. The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the network resource comprises ports of a gateway.

20   35. The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the network resource comprises digital signal processor resources of a digital signal processor farm.

36. The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the
25   multipoint control unit includes digital signal processor resources, and further comprising means for reserving at least a portion of the digital signal processor resources for a predetermined period of time beginning at approximately the scheduled start time.

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37. The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the multipoint control unit includes a plurality of communication ports and further comprising means for reserving a number of the plurality of communication ports for a predetermined period of time beginning at approximately the scheduled start time.

38. The apparatus of Claim 33, further comprising means for receiving a plurality of participant addresses, each participant address corresponding to at least one of the participants, and wherein each participant address comprises an end point of at least one communication path.

39. The apparatus of Claim 33, further comprising means for predicting at least one of the plurality of communication paths using a default address associated with at least one of the participants.

40. The apparatus of Claim 33, further comprising means for transmitting a message to at least one of the plurality of participants, the message including a request to provide an address from which the participant intends to participate in the multipoint conference.